Scarlet Essay Paper Prompt

Starter Questions

1. Identify the sins of Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth, and trace the consequences of their sins.
2. Explain Hawthorne’s view on human nature regarding passions and sins.
3. According to Hawthorne, what are the moral consequences of sin and how does one become redeemed? Cite incidents from the story.
4. Examine how the narrator conflates Dimmesdale’s illness with his hidden sin, then explain what this reveals about the narrator’s notion of the effects of sin and secrecy.
5. If Hester and Dimmesdale had the same “teachers” (Shame, Despair, Solitude), why didn’t they learn the same lesson?